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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

June 21, 2018

Dr. Earl A. Powell III, Chairman
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Dr. Powell III,

I am writing to urge the Commission on Fine Arts to come to a timely final decision supporting the preferred 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue placement of the National Desert Storm War Memorial in our nation's capital.

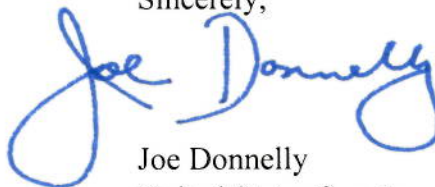
As you know, when Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, the United States and its servicemembers answered the call to duty by promoting freedom in the face of injustice. However, these brave men and women remain without a memorial to their service and sacrifice in Washington, DC. Our nation's monuments share the story of our country, and this story cannot be fully told without a National Desert Storm War Memorial.

The heroic actions of our servicemembers in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield helped create a stronger sense of pride and gratitude for all men and women who serve in our military. Perhaps more importantly, the nearly 400 fallen servicemembers of this war deserve a memorial for their sacrifice, and those who fought alongside them deserve a place of remembrance and healing.

Several years of work by many dedicated individuals have gone into making this memorial a reality. In Congress, the effort enjoys strong bipartisan support, and both Congress and President Trump have approved the placement of the National Desert Storm War Memorial at an Area One site—a place reserved for commemorating events of high importance.

It is important that the Commission of Fine Arts move swiftly to approve the 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue site in order to ensure it is constructed in a timely manner. Both those who have served and their loved ones deserve a place of acknowledgment and reverence that they can visit in their lifetimes. I respectfully ask that you give this request all due consideration consistent with U.S. law and public policy. Thank you for your service and leadership. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Donnelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "Donnelly" clearly legible.

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator